

# WHY WE BELIEVE: The Bible Text: Hebrews 3:4

## *The Scientific Accuracy and Foreknowledge of the Bible*

1. **Imagine a great mansion much older than anyone in the area can remember.**
  - a. It's been vacant for years, but a stranger arrives in town claiming ownership of the mansion.
  - b. The courthouse judge asks what evidence he has to prove his ownership.
  - c. The man says he built it himself and can verify his claim w/ specific internal secrets of the construction that only the builder of that specific house would know.
    - A cement trowel fell into the wet cement, now encased in the foundation of the NE corner.
    - Hidden floor joists that were 2x8 instead of the regular 2x6 construction.
    - Dozens of specific hand hewn details within the construction only the builder would know.
2. (Hebrews 3:4; 11:3) **Scientists are examining the universe and discovering many hidden details of it's construction—Let's compare these modern discoveries with the words of the Bible written by the author and builder of the universe.**

Science textbooks are constantly changing and updating every year as we discover more... The Bible is not a science textbook, but if it is the unchanging and eternal word of God then we would expect it to contain information only the Creator of the universe would know.

## I. The Scientific Accuracy and Foreknowledge of the Bible<sup>1</sup>

### (1) THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE

1. **The 1st verse of the Bible declares the Universe had a Beginning (Gen 1:1)**
2. **It is difficult for us to conceive how profound this statement of truth is—**  
**because it was NOT the prevailing view of the ancient world**  
**when Moses wrote the book of Genesis by inspiration of God.**
  - a) The Ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians and Greeks all believed the universe had no beginning—that it had always been in existence.
  - b) They still believed in different deities, but they thought these deities existed within a time-space universe that had always existed.
  - c) This Idea that the Universe Had NO Beginning and had always existed was the prevailing view of the scientific community up through the beginning of 20th century.
3. **But it was several groundbreaking discoveries in the 20th century that completely destroyed this view of an eternal universe.**
  - The discovery of the Expanding Universe...
  - The Cosmic Background Radiation echo from the big bang...
  - The 2nd law of thermodynamics that everything is slowing down...
  - a) Has led Cosmologists and Astronomers to conclude with certainty that the Universe Did Actually have a Beginning—Just as the Bible said 4,000 years before!
  - b) Arno Penzias was awarded a Nobel prize for co-discovering the Cosmic Background Radiation echo of the beginning of the universe. In an interview by NY Times he said: “The best data we have are exactly what I would have predicted had I nothing to go on but the first five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.”

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<sup>1</sup> For further research see the excellent book by A.O. Schnabel called 'Has God Spoken?'

## **(2) THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE**

- 1. Up until the 20th century scientists believed our galaxy was the universe.**
  - a) They had no idea there were other galaxies outside the milky way galaxy.
  - b) And they believed the Universe was static and fixed—and so they had no idea the universe was expanding at an astonishing rate.
  - c) IMAGE: Our Nearest Galaxy Andromeda - Spiral galaxy
- 2. But all that changed in the 1920's when Edwin Hubble discovered other galaxies outside our own.**
  - a) Hubble was using the most advanced and powerful telescope of the time at the Mount Wilson Observatory in Southern California.
  - b) Not only did he view other galaxies outside our own—
  - c) He discovered they are expanding further and further apart from one another!
  - d) This discovery dramatically transformed our understanding of the universe.
- 3. How amazing then that the Bible revealed this fact centuries before the invention of the first telescope.**
  - a) **(Isaiah 40:22)** written around 2,700 years ago.
  - b) **(Job 9:8)** was written around 4,000 years ago.
  - c) **(Genesis 1:8 NASB)** Hebrew רָקִיעַ *raqia* – translated: *expanse*
    - (1) Means: 'spreading out expanse' or 'to spread out over empty space'
  - d) **(Psalm 19:1 NASB)** Hebrew רָקִיעַ *raqia* – translated: *expanse*
  - e) So How Could Isaiah, Job, Moses or David Know the Universe was Expanding?
    - They didn't have telescopes or Satellites!
    - The first telescope was not used until 1608 by Galileo.
    - From our vantage point on earth there's no indication the universe is expanding.
- 4. The Universe is actually expanding outward at the speed of light**
  - a) **(Jeremiah 31:37 NASB)** "Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured... Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD."
  - b) Because the Universe is expanding at the speed of light—it can't be measured! Just as the Bible said 3,000 years ago!

## **(3) THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH**

**The Bible also speaks with amazing accuracy about the shape of the Earth.**

- 1. Every ancient civilization other than Israel believed the earth was flat.**
  - a) The ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians and Chinese all have written records of their belief that the earth was flat.
  - b) The commonly held belief was that the earth was flat and the whole world was encircled by water they called *Oceanus*.
  - c) They believed anyone foolish enough to sail beyond sight of land would eventually fall off the edge of the earth and perish.
  - d) The Greek philosopher Aristotle was the first to theorize the earth was round.

- e) He noticed that ships disappeared over the horizon along with the circular shape could be seen on the moon during an eclipse.
- f) But no one else believed this except Aristotle and his students.
- 2. Even some Bible critics today claim the Bible agrees with a flat earth view.**
  - a) They point to (**Revelation 7:1**) and claim the phrase “four corners of the earth” is proof that Bible teaches the earth is flat.
  - b) But the Apostle John is not promoting a flat earth concept—it’s a common figure of speech that refers to the 4 fundamental directions: North, South, East, West.
- 3. It is the Bible that accurately describes the earth as a round sphere.**
  - a) Isaiah lived during a time when the Babylonians and Persians believed the earth was flat—When Isaiah wrote: (**Isaiah 40:22**)  
**“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth”**
  - b) This was written centuries before the Greeks discovered the earth was round.
  - c) We know from space exploration the earth is round...But how did Isaiah know that?
  - d) A Thousand years before Isaiah—Job wrote (**Job 26:10**) **“He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters At the boundary of light and darkness.**
  - e) **Meaning:** God has drawn a circle over the surface of the planet... where the boundary of light and darkness appear.  
 Notice it is not square or rectangle—why? Because the Earth is round.

#### **(4) THE SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH**

- 1. Ancient cultures reasoned that something had to hold the earth in place.**
  - a) Ancient Hindus believed the earth rested on the backs of elephants, who stood on the back of a turtle.
  - b) The common belief was that the Earth was rigidly supported and the heavens above were in motion.
  - c) It was not until the invention of the telescope in 1608 when discoveries began to take place showing the Earth’s position in space.
  - d) Then in 1687, the **devout Christian Issac Newton**, wrote Principia Mathematica in which he gave the first theory of the law of universal gravitational force.
  - e) He theorized that the earth was held suspended by centrifugal force by the gravitational orbit around the sun.
- 2. The earth itself weighs 6 billion trillion tons (6x10 to 23 power).**
  - a) To replace the gravitational pull of our sun to suspend the earth—It would take the strength of a steel cable 8,000 miles in diameter!
- 3. But 4,000 years ago the Bible said the earth was not physically supported!**  
**(Job 26:7 NASB)**
  - a) **“He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing.”**
  - b) **“...He suspends the earth over nothing.” (NIV)**
- 4. Now with satellite technology and photos of earth from space we know the earth is suspended—But how did Job know that 4,000 years ago?**
  - a) Another amazing example of the Bible’s scientific accuracy and foresight

## **(5) THE MOTION OF THE SUN**

- 1. In ancient Egypt the sun was worshiped as a diety they called Ra.**
  - a) They believed Ra sailed across the sky everyday visiting the upper and lower realms
  - b) The Evidence of Sun worship is found all over the ancient world: Assyrians, Persians, Babylonians all worshipped the sun...
  - c) Ancient cultures in Asia, Africa and South America all worshipped the Sun.
- 2. Moses was raised in Egypt in the pharaoh's household and he was trained in all the learning of the Egyptians. (Acts 7:22)**
  - a) But Moses had an encounter with God in the Sinai wilderness and was commanded by God to write the words of God by direct inspiration of God.
  - b) The very first chapter of Genesis declares that the Sun was created by God and given for light and for the measuring of days, and times and seasons.
  - c) This was against the prevailing beliefs of the entire world! That the sun was not to be worshipped as if it was a god, but was a created thing.
- 3. But even while most of the world was worshipping the sun, the inspired writer David wrote this about the sun (Psalm 19:6)**
  - a) For years modern critics have mocked this verse thinking that David was mistaken and that he was stuck in a geocentric view of the universe.
  - b) They thought David believed the sun was on a course around the earth as if the earth was the center of the universe.
  - c) David never said that—but that's what they claimed and mocked him for it—saying the sun was stationary and the earth revolves around the sun.
- 4. Now we know that the sun is not stationary and actually does have a circuit**
  - a) The sun is in a massive circuit through the heavens as it travels around the center of our galaxy at about 52,000 MPH! —Just as the Bible said 3 thousand years ago!

## **(6) THE VAST NUMBER OF STARS**

- 1. Before the invention of the telescope many believed the stars could be numbered**
  - a) Babylonians studied the stars created star charts
  - b) The Greek astronomer and mathematician Hipparchus (190-120 bc) claimed there was 1026 stars in existence.
  - c) The astronomer and mathematician Ptolemy (85-165 ad) said there were 1056 stars.
  - d) German astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630 ad) counted 1005.
- 2. But then the telescope was invented and the Christian astronomer Galileo discovered man was way off and the Bible was actually correct.**
  - a) (Jeremiah 33:22) trying to count the number of stars in the universe would be as futile as trying to count the grains of sand on dry land and under the oceans.
  - b) The Bible said this almost 3,000 years before the invention of the telescope... Because God revealed that to Jeremiah for us to know.
- 3. Today astronomers estimate there are at least 100 billion galaxies in the universe each containing between 100 billion and 10 trillion stars EACH!**
  - a) An estimate because no one can know the number across billions of galaxies! With man it is impossible—but with God who created them, it is possible! (Is 40:25–26)

## **(7) THE 2nd LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS**

### **1. (Psalm 102:25-27) God is eternal—but the universe is NOT.**

- a) Almost 3,000 years ago the Bible states the the universe is wearing out...  
—And that in time it will even “pass away.”

### **2. This is astonishing because the dominant view for centuries was that the universe was eternal—that it has always been here.**

- a) things that are eternal don't wear out... they remain the same.
- b) Carl Sagan: “The cosmos is all there is, all there was and all there ever will be.”

### **3. But the Bible says, No—the universe is wearing out and will pass away! So who is right?**

- a) The Bible or philosophers like Aristotle who assured us the universe is self-sustaining
- b) It was a Bible Believing Physicist in the 19th century who discovered the universe is slowing down, running down and deteriorating.
- c) stars are burning fuel and losing mass and growing colder.
- d) They discovered what is now known as the 2nd law of thermodynamics, which is one of the most established and verified laws known to man.
- e) Harvard scientists John Ross: “There are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics.” Not one exception anywhere in the known universe!
- f) Everywhere we look we see that law at work.

### **4. But the Bible reveals one exception (1 Peter 1:23–25)**

- a) Everything is aging and breaking down and passing away—except the Word of God
- b) Jesus said: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.”

### **5. When we look at all the evidence the SKEPTICS and CRITICS try to say: *“Well these details were probably added later after the discoveries were made.”***

- a) But we know that's not true because we have the ancient Bible manuscripts that pre-date any of these discoveries by thousands of years!
- b) This Manuscript of Isaiah from the Dead Sea Scrolls was found in the caves of Qumran in 1946 by Beduin shepherds that is 2,200 years old!
- c) The passages we just read (Isaiah 40:22) Same with Psalm scroll (Psalm 19:2)
- d) You can view the DDS yourself in Jerusalem or high definition photos online

### **6. God's Word is eternal and His promises are eternal (Psalm 103:11-12)**

**Astronomer Robert Jastrow** is founder and director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies: “Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a Biblical view of the origin of the world... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **1. The Bible tells How the World Began and How the World Will End (2 Pet 3:3–13)**